ST. JOHN'S GATE, CLERKENWELL.

STONE DISCOVERED IN VAULT, EAST SIDE OF GATE.

ARMS OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND ON THE SOUTH FRONT OF GATE.

CRYPT BENEATH ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

Priory experienced some slight return to its former greatness. Part of the choir which remained, with some side chapels, was closed up at the west end by Cardinal Pool (or Pole) and otherwise repaired, Sir Thomas Gresham being made prior. Its existence, however, was but short-lived, as in the first year of Elizabeth the order was again suppressed. In 1604 a grant was made by James I. to Sir Roger Wilbraham for his life of the south gate of the Priory; and by letters patent of the same monarch, dated May 9th, 1607, the site or house of the late hospital, with all the precincts of the same, containing about five acres, was granted to Ralph Freeman and his heirs, the choir passing by deed into the hands of Sir William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, son of the Earl of Exeter. In the reign of Charles I. it became the property of Robert Bruce, Earl of Elgin, by virtue of his marriage with the daughter of Thomas Earl of Exeter, and by whom it was converted into a private chapel, for many years after known as the Aylesbury Chapel (the title of their eldest son), the estates remaining in the hands of this family for upwards of a century. In the year 1721 they were purchased by Simon Michell, who, in 1723, repaired and enlarged the chapel, building the present west front, and reroofing the whole, then disposed of the church, vaults, vestry-room, the ground adjacent, and two messuages in St. John-street, for the sum of 2,950*l.* to the Commissioners for Building Fifty New Churches; and the structure, after enrolment in Chancery, and consecration by Edmund Gibson, Lord Bishop of London, was declared to be a parish church for ever, styled The Church of St. John, Clerkenwell, in the county of Middlesex.

We have now come to that period when "The pen does truly supersede the sword." Edward Cave, occupying St. John's Gate as a residence and printing-house, thence issued, January 1731, that first, more worthy, crusade made by our serial literature against ignorance and vice, in the shape of *The Gentleman's Magazine*, which still maintains its position among our monthly publications, and from which the word "magazine," as applied to periodical literature, originated. From Cave's connection with the Gate, it became the meeting-place of the literati of the time, Savage, Goldsmith, Garrick, Lauder, Boswell, and Johnson, being continually found there; but soon after his death, in January 1754, it was converted into a tavern, and as such is still used.

Mr. Foster gives some description of the remains which time and *modern improvement in unqualified hands* have yet left of this ancient land-mark in the history of our country. It appears such was its condition when the Metropolitan Buildings Act came into operation, that a survey was made by the district surveyor, and notice given to repair it, as being dangerous. Through the instrumentality of Mr. W. P. Griffith, to whom, by the way, the work is very properly dedicated, for his praiseworthy exertions in endeavouring to preserve this monument of past ages, a committee was formed, and a sufficiency of funds raised to put the exterior, at least, into a safe state; and it is in hopes of drawing the public attention generally to the structure, that means may be found for completing the restoration under proper advice, that Mr. Foster has published this, his "Labour of Love."

We annex engravings of the crypt beneath St. John's Church, part of the ancient priory; and of some fragments connected with the gate.

Notices of Books.

A Treatise on Arithmetic. By J. R. YOUNG, late Professor of Mathematics in Belfast College. Weale, 1852.

The Elements of Euclid for Beginners. By JACOB LOWRES. Longman, Brown, and Green, 1852.

THE first of these is one of the 105 rudimentary works by good authorities in their respective arts or sciences published by Mr. Weale for the public instruction. It is a worthy addition to its precursors, being clear, comprehensive, and to the point. It may well supersede in schools some of the more costly and cumbersome books there used.

Mr. Lowres's "Euclid," too, has our welcome. Geometry has been justly termed "the very handle of philosophy," but we fear it is a handle not so often laid hold of as it ought to be from its *supposed* roughness. Here, then, is the first book of that involved mystery reduced into a simple, concise, yet correct form: the substitution of words for the signs more ordinarily used serves further to simplify it.

Miscellanea.

ARCHITECTURAL CONGRESS AT NORTHAMPTON.—The invitations for the 14th, sent by order of the Architectural Committee to the various societies which are in union with the Northampton society, have been in almost every instance cordially responded to. The Oxford Architectural, the Bedfordshire, the Sussex, the Ecclesiological, and the Yorkshire society will all send representatives. The Institute of Scottish Architects have, as we mentioned, deputed two of their members to attend. Professor Willis, who was expected to deliver a lecture at the evening meeting, is prevented going; but the subject of Round Churches, for the English and foreign, will be taken up by Mr. E. Sharpe. Mr. Poole has also promised a paper on the Restoration of Churches, with reference to St. Sepulchre's. Mr. Franklin Hudson will probably read a notice on the Memorial Brasses of Northamptonshire.

UPTON-ON-SEVERN BRIDGE COMPETITION, WORCESTERSHIRE.—Nineteen plans have been sent in competition for the rebuilding of this bridge, in accordance with the advertisement which appeared in our pages; but the committee appointed by the county magistrates have not yet reported upon them. At the Quarter Sessions, on Monday, the 5th inst. it was agreed, that, to avoid the inconvenience to the town and neighbourhood of Upton, a temporary wooden bridge should be erected over the river, a little above the present old stone one, which is being taken down.

DEFECTIVE RESERVOIRS.—Near Alvechurch, according to a Worcester paper, one of the sluices of a series of reservoirs, formed partly for supply of the canal and also for the water-mills on the upper part of the Arrow, was lately found defective, and caused much alarm at Alvechurch. Fortunately a discovery of the part out of repair was made in time to prevent any accident. It is to be hoped, adds our authority, that all similar works will be thoroughly examined by competent authorities,

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